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# DEFENSE HIGHLIGHTS REVIEW & OPINION



**INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DECLINE.** A great deal has been said about the nation's intelligence-collecting community, about its reported abuses, and more recently, new criticism about its supposed inability to provide strategic warnings to the President, such as in the case of the current disarray in Iran. Many sage counsels have warned about abridging the apparatus and workings of the CIA and other intelligence organizations too much, but a little-reported address by CIA director, Admiral Stansfield Turner, before the National Press Club a month or two ago adds real credence to the warnings of those counsels, and helps to explain some of the possible reasons behind intelligence inefficiencies. In that address he said that he dreaded the disclosures of sensitive intelligence that he often found in the press. Some were by leaks, sometimes by CIA officers being forced to testify in court, and sometimes by the subpoena of a document or notes. At least one upshot of all this is an erosion of the confidence of Allied intelligence services in the ability of U. S. intelligence services to keep secrets. Admiral Turner told of a recent proposal for a joint covert action, that would have benefitted both the U. S. and the friendly power, that was withdrawn by the latter nation when reminded that 8 committees of Congress required notification of covert activities by the CIA. The friendly nation couldn't imagine that the plan would not leak under such circumstances. Who knows what other intelligence will be missed because of this sort of hampering of the intelligence effort?